

A FEW REMARKS
ON THE
REDUCED RATE OF MORTALITY
IN GLASGOW,

WITH OBSERVATIONS ON THE RESULTS OF THE MEASURES
TAKEN BY THE MUNICIPAL AUTHORITIES TO REDUCE SAME;

AND TABLES AND CALCULATIONS,

SHOWING THE COMPARATIVE RATE OF DECREASE OF MORTALITY
IN THE LEADING CITIES AND TOWNS OF
SCOTLAND AND ENGLAND.

BY

JAMES MORRISON,

CHAIRMAN OF THE COMMITTEE OF MANAGEMENT OF THE
GLASGOW IMPROVEMENT TRUST.

GLASGOW:

PRINTED BY ROBERT MACLEHOSE, 153 WEST NILE ST.

1879.

TO THE Honourable The LORD PROVOST, MAGISTRATES, and MEMBERS of the TOWN COUNCIL,
as TRUSTEES under the GLASGOW CITY IMPROVEMENTS ACT.

MY LORD PROVOST and GENTLEMEN,

The various means to be adopted for the preservation of the health and lives of those residing in large cities is the most important social problem of the present day, and it is matter of regret that even now there are educated men willing to stir up popular feeling against all energetic measures of sanitary reform.

In several recent discussions in the Town Council and articles in the local press it has been asserted that the means adopted by the authorities of Glasgow and other large cities have not appreciably improved the health of these communities, and that the *trifling* diminution of the death rates is more due to a general wave of health all over the country than to any efforts made by the various local authorities.

I am glad to say that these disparaging remarks have not discouraged in any way the many able members of the Town Council who form the Committee of Health, and in that capacity devote so much time to the consideration and man-

agement of this important department, involving the construction and supervision of excellent small-pox and fever hospitals, and all other known methods for the control and limitation of epidemic disease. Neither can they diminish the intelligent zeal of Dr. Russell and the sanitary staff. The advantages of systematic surveillance and precautions taken for the careful preservation of health and life are now too highly appreciated by the whole ratepayers of Glasgow to render this possible. The blow is therefore aimed at the City Improvement Trustees whose operations from first to last have been and are being carried out successfully to the gratification of every intelligent citizen in the face of difficulties augmented by ignorant opposition.

It is quite unnecessary I should remind you that the objects desired by the Committee of Health could never have been so generally obtained but for the demolition of the buildings scheduled under the City Improvement Act. Disease and crime were too surely and deeply rooted in these dens to be otherwise eradicated, and the Medical Officer of Health and Chief Constable have spontaneously testified to this fact. Neither on the other hand could the mere demolition of these plague spots benefit the community to such material results but for the erection of hospitals and skilful treatment of the patients and the systematic surveillance of the new houses to which the population removed.

No jealousy has ever been felt or expressed between the two departments—unity of action and the most cordial co-operation has been the invariable rule. The Improvement Trustees immediately demolished such buildings as were pointed out by the Medical Officer of Health as the great

factors of disease, and long before the re-construction of any area could be carried out in *toto* the most objectionable tenements had been removed. The great benefits to the community that have resulted from this conjoined action is neither claimed for nor appropriated by either department, but is a source of gratification to both.

The following tables, extracted from the Registrar-General's official returns (prepared at my request by the Statistical Clerk of the Sanitary department and subsequently revised by Dr. Russell, who has certified the same as correct), prove that solid and, I hope, permanent progress has been made in Glasgow and other large cities in the United Kingdom during the last six years as contrasted with the six preceding years. The general efforts (to which the City of Glasgow Improvement Act gave such a powerful impetus) to grapple with a high death rate in large centres of population through greater attention to sanitary measures, is marked in each *in almost the exact proportion of the energy and extent of the efforts made.* The most successful of these communities being, as a rule, those which have taken advantage of Local Improvement Acts or the Artisans Dwellings Act. It is fair to state that some of the towns are in process of carrying out changes that should reduce (ordinary human calculation) their death rates *in future returns.*

Comparative Death-Rates in certain Towns in Scotland and England for 12 Years.

From 1867 to 1878 inclusive, extracted from the Registrar-Generals' Official Returns.

YEARS.	SCOTLAND.						ENGLAND.									
	Glasgow.	Edinburgh.	Dundee.	Aberdeen.	Greenock.	Paisley.	Leith.	Perth.	London.	Birmingham.	Liverpool.	Manchester.	Salford.	Bradford.	Leeds.	Sheffield.
1867,.....	28.2	25.2	27.1	22.0	26.9	27.8	25.1	21.6	22.9	25.6	30.6	32.8	28.2	24.6	26.2	25.4
1868,.....	30.4	24.8	26.0	24.1	30.1	25.4	22.4	23.8	24.0	25.9	31.0	34.3	31.0	27.0	28.3	28.1
1869,.....	33.7	27.7	30.9	20.9	30.9	30.1	26.3	26.2	24.6	23.1	30.4	30.7	26.4	25.6	26.6	28.7
1870,.....	29.6	23.8	26.9	22.1	28.7	28.0	23.2	24.3	24.0	23.0	32.9	29.8	25.8	27.5	28.7	26.5
1871,.....	32.9	27.0	27.5	22.6	29.4	30.1	23.1	20.8	24.7	24.9	35.1	31.2	30.4	25.5	26.4	28.3
1872,.....	28.7	26.7	28.0	23.5	27.3	29.6	27.9	22.2	21.4	23.0	27.1	28.6	25.8	26.3	27.9	26.0
Average,.....	30.6	25.8	27.7	22.5	28.9	28.5	24.6	23.1	23.6	24.2	31.1	31.2	27.9	26.1	27.3	27.1
1873,.....	29.1	22.0	25.6	23.1	34.7	32.8	22.1	24.1	22.5	24.2	25.9	30.1	29.3	24.7	27.0	25.8
1874,.....	31.2	23.7	31.6	22.2	25.6	28.6	24.9	26.4	22.5	26.8	32.0	30.4	29.6	27.0	28.7	26.9
1875,.....	28.7	23.8	24.4	21.2	32.0	28.1	20.6	23.9	23.7	26.5	27.5	29.9	31.5	27.1	26.4	24.8
1876,.....	25.2	20.4	22.1	21.1	23.0	26.4	22.2	24.1	22.3	22.7	27.6	29.2	31.9	23.9	25.1	24.3
1877,.....	24.9	21.2	21.2	21.0	21.6	27.2	21.6	23.2	21.9	24.2	26.5	27.4	25.1	21.9	22.3	21.9
1878,.....	25.0	22.0	21.5	22.0	20.7	32.6	21.8	24.0	23.5	25.5	29.4	27.8	25.6	22.5	23.7	25.0
Average, ..	27.3	22.1	24.4	21.7	26.2	29.3	22.2	24.3	22.7	24.9	28.1	29.1	29.0	24.5	25.6	24.7
Reduction in 6 years,...	3.3	3.7	3.3	0.8	2.7	0.8	2.4	1.2	0.9	0.7	3.0	2.1	1.1	1.6	1.7	2.4
Percentage of improvement,.....	10.7	14.3	11.9	3.5	9.3	...	9.7	...	3.8	...	9.6	6.7	...	6.1	6.2	8.8

STATEMENT

Showing from the REGISTRAR-GENERAL'S OFFICIAL RETURNS the average death-rate of the sixteen large towns referred to in previous table for the six years from 1867 to 1872, inclusive.

1. Manchester,	...	...	...	31·2
2. Liverpool,	...	...	...	31·1
3. Glasgow,	...	...	...	30·6
4. Greenock,	...	...	...	28·9
5. Paisley, ...	...	...	...	28·5
6. Salford, ...	...	...	...	27·9
7. Dundee,	...	...	...	27·7
8. Leeds, ...	...	...	...	27·3
9. Sheffield,	...	...	...	27·1
10. Bradford,	...	...	...	26·1
11. Edinburgh,	...	...	...	25·8
12. Leith, ...	...	...	...	24·6
13. Birmingham,	...	...	...	24·2
14. London,	...	...	...	23·6
15. Perth, ...	...	...	...	23·1
16. Aberdeen,	...	...	...	22·5

STATEMENT

Showing from the REGISTRAR-GENERAL'S OFFICIAL RETURNS the average death-rate of the sixteen large towns referred to in preceding table for the six years from 1873 to 1878, inclusive.

1. Paisley, ...	...	...	...	29·3
2. Manchester, ...	...	...	...	29·1
3. Salford, ...	...	...	...	29·0
4. Liverpool, ...	...	...	...	28·1
5. Glasgow, ...	...	...	...	27·3
6. Greenock, ...	...	...	...	26·2
7. Leeds, ...	...	...	...	25·6
8. Birmingham, ...	...	...	...	24·9
9. Sheffield, ...	...	...	...	24·7
10. Bradford, ...	...	...	...	24·5
11. Dundee, ...	...	...	...	24·4
12. Perth, ...	...	...	...	24·3
13. London, ...	...	...	...	22·7
14. Leith, ...	...	...	...	22·2
15. Edinburgh, ...	...	...	...	22·1
16. Aberdeen, ...	...	...	...	21·7

CALCULATION

Showing the percentage of improvement and order thereof in the sixteen large towns in England and Scotland referred to in the preceding tables on a comparison between the six years 1867-1872 and the six later years 1873-1878, inclusive.

IMPROVED.

1. Edinburgh,	...	...	...	14.3 %
2. Dundee,	...	...	...	11.9 %
3. Glasgow,	...	...	...	10.7 %
4. Leith,	...	...	...	9.7 %
5. Liverpool,	...	...	...	9.6 %
6. Greenock,	...	...	...	9.3 %
7. Sheffield,	...	...	...	8.8 %
8. Manchester,	...	...	...	6.7 %
9. Leeds,	...	...	...	6.2 %
10. Bradford,	...	...	...	6.1 %
11. London,	...	...	...	3.8 %
12. Aberdeen,	...	...	...	3.5 %

GONE BACK.

13. Perth,	...	...	...	---
14. Salford,	...	...	...	---
15. Birmingham,	...	...	...	---
16. Paisley,	...	...	...	---

TABLE

Showing the lesser number of deaths calculated in proportion to population in the sixteen large Towns in England and Scotland, on a comparison between the six years 1867-1872, and the six later years 1873-1878, and referred to in the preceding table.

1. Edinburgh 14·3 % improvement or 4,764 less deaths in 6 years.					
2. Dundee	11·9 %	do.	2,718	do.	do.
3. Glasgow	10·7 %	do.	10,590	do.	do.
4. Leith	9·7 %	do.	750	do.	do.
5. Liverpool	9·6 %	do.	9,336	do.	do.
6. Greenock	9·3 %	do.	1,116	do.	do.
7. Sheffield	8·8 %	do.	3,900	do.	do.
8. Manchester	6·7 %	do.	4,500	do.	do.
9. Leeds	6·2 %	do.	2,940	do.	do.
10. Bradford	6·1 %	do.	1,638	do.	do.
11. London	3·8 %	do.	18,720	do.	do.
12. Aberdeen	3·5 %	do.	456	do.	do.

The towns which have not improved are Birmingham, Salford, Paisley, and Perth, but important changes in Birmingham and Paisley are in progress.

These tables can only lead every thoughtful man to the conclusion that a very large proportion of the deaths in our cities and towns are not only preventible but that the requisite *means* must be used to protect human life and health—that these efforts should be continued to ensure ultimate success and reduction to the minimum rate—and that the authorities who energetically exert themselves to remedy the various evils which swell the mortality tables of our larger cities should receive active and cordial support from all good citizens.

I shudder to think what the plague spots in the City of Glasgow would have been by this time but for the conjoined action of the Sanitary Authorities and the City Improvement Trustees.

I am,

MY LORD PROVOST and GENTLEMEN,

Your obedient Servant,

JAMES MORRISON,

*Chairman of Committee of Management,
City Improvement Trust.*

GLASGOW, 8th October, 1879.

GLASGOW'S ANNEXATION SCHEME

1907.

SCALE

1/2 MILES

1/4 MILES

1/2 MILES

1/4 MILES



BLACK - GLASGOW as at present
 358 12,785 Acres. Population 803,000 Rental £3,640,226 Empty Houses 13,000 Unbuilt Land 3,255 Acres
 RED Area proposed to be annexed 15,542 Acres. Population 60,000 Rental £2,700,000
 SPOTTED GOVAN and PARTICK not to be annexed although only 1/4 miles from the Royal Exchange while BUSBY is to be annexed is 1 1/4 miles

12,786 Acres

Size of GLASGOW as proposed

25,331 Acres

Size of GLASGOW as proposed

RATEPAYERS FEDERATION, LTD.
ROBERT BIRD, SECY.,
71A WEST NILE STREET,
GLASCOW.

107- Jan 100.

